

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-20 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1, 6, 8, and 20 have been amended and Claims 2-5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 13-14, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanayama (U.S. Pat. No. 4,498,088).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot as independent Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to include allowable subject matter. Specifically, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 2-5 and independent Claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 4-7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 20, as well as Claims 6-19, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of the rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 5-7, 12, and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 5 by incorporating Claims 2-5 therein. In addition, Applicants have amended independent Claim 20 to include the subject of Claim 4 as well as the allowable subject matter of Claims 5-7. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 20, as well as Claims 6-19, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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